



## **Bethel Neighborhood Center** **2017 Annual Report**

Our Mission is to offer a renewed sense of hope to our multi-ethnic community by sharing material, educational, health, social and spiritual resources that help people bridge ethnic and economic boundaries to achieve self-sufficiency.

### **2017 Board of Directors**

Board President - Marylou Reiter, Vice President - Hidy Aguilar  
Secretary - Sandra Olivas, Treasurer - Robert Lightner,

Daphne Braswell	Victor Clay	Mary Etta Copeland
Gordon Criswell	Janice Jones	Joseph LeMaster
Monica Mendez	Eloise Mills	Lian Piang
John Williams	Ruben Zaragoza	

### **Youth After School and Summer Enrichment Programs**

Children/Youth – Grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>



**Description:** We provide educational, social and recreational programs in a safe and nurturing environment. Our programs include reading, homework assistance, leadership training, community service, health education, social skills, cultural awareness, and educational and recreational field trips.

Our high school program emphasizes on college readiness, career options, community service, job training, and fun and educational field trips.

**Outcomes:** In 2017, more than 100 students benefited from our after school and summer programs. 99% of students completed their homework and were ready for school the next day. Internal surveys revealed 98% of our students make healthier food choices and exercise more due to our health and fitness lessons.

Our students participated in seven or more community service projects, and enjoyed 13 fun-filled and educational field trips to various places including Deanna Rose, several museums, Federal Reserve Bank, a tour of the police station and Royals games.



## Senior Program

Senior adults 60 years and better



**Description:** Our seniors attend lunch Monday-Friday accompanied by programs allowing them to socialize, participate in Bingo, games, music, arts and crafts, Healthy Lifestyle classes, community services and field trips. We have a nurse teaching healthy lifestyles and a visiting nurse who monitors blood pressure/glucose and weight on a monthly basis. Bethel seniors also participated in a 9 week Zumba class.

**Outcomes:** In 2017, out of the 37 seniors enrolled, 13 of them attended regularly. Of our seniors 75% of them reported they have started looking for more whole grain foods while shopping, 83% said they have increased the amount of water they drink and 92% said they eat more fruits and veggies. Bethel seniors stuffed 420 bone pillows, infant neck pillows and empathy dolls for Children's Mercy Hospital. They enjoyed going to Lake Jacomo, Deanna Rose Farmstead, the movies, Jamesport town, and Christmas on the Lake in Lee's Summit, MO. Seniors received 1,154 bags of fresh produce during the year.



## Food Pantry

Residents of Wyandotte County



**Description:** Our food pantry offers a variety of culturally appropriate foods, baby diapers, wipes and formula to neighborhood residents. We also hand out hygiene products, clothes and other household items when available. Our pantry is stocked with donations from KCK public schools, US Postal Carriers, churches and individuals and in partnership with the Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson County. A weekly food drop from First Baptist Church of Stilwell, Kansas helps us to distribute more fresh produce and bread to our community.

**Outcomes:** In 2017, we helped more than 8,691 adults, senior citizens and children and handed out more than 71,850 pounds of food (about 25 pounds of food per visit). We also provided baby diapers, baby foods, and baby wipes to 311 infants/toddlers; giving out 3,187 baby diapers throughout the year.

## **Assistance with Language Translation and Notary** Refugees, Immigrants, Economically Disadvantaged



for low-income families.

**Description:** Bethel staff members speak more than 9 languages helping us to provide culturally appropriate programs and services to our community. They help in advocacy, filling forms for schools, jobs, and clinics, finding jobs, helping them to buy homes and much more. A staff notarizes important documents

**Outcome:** Bethel was able to assist 53 individuals to translate and complete forms for doctors appointments, clinic visits, immigration appointments, purchasing a home, and notarizing important paperwork.

### **ESL/Citizenship Classes**

Immigrants, Newcomers, Refugees

**Description:** Adult ESL/Citizenship classes meet weekly for two hours on Fridays. They work on conversational English, learn new vocabulary, and listen to, read and learn pronunciation. For immigrants who have lived in the US for five years or more, we have been preparing them to become citizens by teaching the 100 civic questions and answers they have to know. Voting, the Pledge of Allegiance and the US history are fascinating to our students. Bethel provided transportation and advocacy as needed on a case by case basis. Last year, 4 immigrants got their citizenship and they were all very pleased.



### **Friday Night Meal and Worship**

**Description:** We were able to have our regular meal and worship on Friday evenings at 5:30 pm until we moved out of the Bethel building in June. Since we moved out of our building, we used to have once or twice a month at 12pm depending upon the availability of churches who could provide meals. Meal and worship is open to the community.



## **Bethel Christmas Shop**

Bethel Families

**Description:** Bethel offers a Christmas Shop in partnership with Prairie Baptist Church since 1968 and other churches and individuals, providing gifts and much needed items for low-income families

year after year. Families submit their needs list which included request for food, basic needs and other household items. Families receiving Christmas baskets are asked to attend financial literacy training to help their family.

**Outcomes:** In December, Bethel helped 55 families, 37 seniors and over 100 Bethel youth. 33 different churches, Sunday school groups, businesses, families and individuals assisted us in providing items for Christmas baskets and all families received a holiday meal. Bethel seniors were adopted by Young Women on the Move and Jean Tysdal of Grace Baptist Church. Elementary youth received shoebox gifts from Woodlawn Baptist Church ABW, Mabel Oyer and Kay Pearson. Kansas City Police adopted 10 youth for shopping at Target.



## **Capital Campaign: Magnifying the Light & Hope**

**Description:** A 2 million dollar capital campaign to renovate and expand our existing building and program started in May 2015. Renovations include a safer drop off entry way, updated outdoor recreation areas, updated existing building with an addition of a garage and a large multipurpose room that will allow us to double our capacity for students.

Ground breaking held on April 8 after reaching our initial goal. In July our office, senior program and food pantry were temporarily moved to Dynamic Life Baptist Church with the youth program following in August to First Baptist Church, Kansas City, KS. In October, the Bethel board and campaign finance committee came to the decision that more funding for the campaign was needed to cover the 20%-30% rise in cost of construction to which 64 donors either gave a second pledge or second gift in response to our appeal in November. November 7 -11, excavation of contaminated soil was completed. At the end of 2017 we have successfully raised over \$2.464 million dollars.





## Service Breakdown Statistics

### **Youth Program Participants**

Total Youth 112  
Ages 6-18 years old

Hispanic	69.64%
Asian	23.23%
Black	2.67%
White	4.46%



### **Summer Program**

Theme: iBelieve

- Equality
- My City
- Expressing Myself
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Vacation Bible School



### **Senior Program Participants**

Total seniors: 37  
Monday – Friday

Hispanic	59%
White	35%
Black	05%
Mixed	01%



### **Food Pantry Users**

Total: 8,901 individuals served

Hispanic	26.76%
Asian	6.58%
Black	31.14%
White	32.06%
Other	3.46%



### **ESL/Citizenship Class**

Asian	99%
Hispanic	01%

## Bethel Personal Impacts

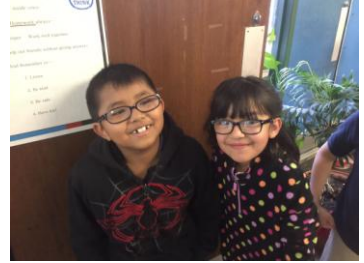


“With the little time I’ve been at Bethel, I really enjoy it. It’s a fun place to be involved in. It’s a safe environment, a place where you don’t feel judged.”

– Chelsea

“I like coming to Bethel because I get homework help, and because I like to play during free time with the new friends I have met there and it has helped me learn English.”

– Sa Nay



“It is one of the safest and most caring places I’ve ever known and I am forever grateful to be a part of the Bethel family. I look forward to my next visit and hope to give back to the Bethel community.”

–Mikey, a former Bethel Youth

“Knowing a small role I play in inspiring them to believe in themselves and to see that they set achievable goals, makes me very happy.”

–Mawi, Bethel summer program teacher



“Thank you very much to all the people giving without receiving anything in exchange and also all of the Bethel volunteers. May God bless you.”

– Yaya, Bethel parent



## 2017 Snap Shot

January 17, 2017

First day back of our after school program with elementary youth



February 8, 2017

Beacons started Interest Clubs with baking, photography and weightlifting!

March 25, 2017

Dr. Monzon and Attorney Gary Long volunteer their services to Bethel

April 08, 2017

Bethel groundbreaking ceremony with community

May 31, 2017

FBC, Manhattan, KS Volunteers sorted and organized food for our pantry

June 10, 2017

Bethel summer kick off @ Bethany Community Center w/ FBC, Olathe, KS

July 7, 2017

Bethel moves office and pantry to temporary location @ Dynamic Life Baptist Church

August 15, 2017

Bethel middle schoolers visit Lewis and Clark statue

September 27, 2017

Bethel High school students enjoyed a visit to William Jewell College



October 7, 2017  
Bethel Fall Festival



November 21, 2017

Bethel hands out turkeys to all Bethel families for Thanksgiving

December 18, 2017

Ten Bethel youth shopped with cops in the “Cops and Kids” program



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**www.bethelcenter.org**



**Bethel Staff**

Rev. Mang Sonna  
Executive Director

Rosa Macias  
Office Assistant & Coordinator of Individual & Family Support

Rev. Victor Velez  
Program Director & Volunteer Coordinator

Jordan Milan  
Program Coordinator

Manuala Perez  
Program Coordinator

Judith LeMaster  
Bethel Nurse

Cing K. Zo  
Outreach Coordinator

Tim Schwartz  
Program Staff

Nico Garcia  
Program Staff

Ashish Diyali  
Program Staff

August Gaw  
Program Staff

Julian Sepulveda  
Program Staff